

Application Serial No. 09/600,941  
Request for Reconsideration dated January 2, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated July 1, 2003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Harald Hoffeld et al ) Group: 3745  
Serial No. 09/600,941 )  
Filed: September 13, 2000 ) Examiner: Frank D. Lopez  
Title: HYDRODYNAMIC COUPLING )

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

**RECEIVED**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JAN 13 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R0700

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 1, 2003.

The rejection of Claims 16-22, 27 and 28 as anticipated by Bilton is traversed. It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection based on the comments provided hereinafter.

With reference to Bilton, there is no bore hole or channel in the wall of the blade wheel for the purpose of discharging oil in the manner claimed in the present application. The blade wheel of Bilton in the region of the tube as shown is open in the radial direction about the entire radial extension of the blade. It is believed that this design was necessary due to production reasons because the running parts are made of cast iron and the housing parts are made of other metal.

It is known that the effectiveness of the hydrodynamic circuit depends on the flowing speed of the mass-stream. The mass-stream results from the optimum design of the space where the blades are arranged. The design of the embodiment according to Bilton results in a lower flowing speed in the blade space and working chamber. In the region of the opening, a low speed potential will result thereby resulting in only mixing of oil in the working chamber with oil behind the blade wheel.

In the intermediate space between the housing and the blade wheel only the pressure due to rotation of the blade wheel is applied. Therefore, the pressure in the intermediate space between the housing and the blade wheel counteracts the flow from the working chamber to the intermediate space, whereby the pressure in the intermediate space is higher than the pressure due to the rotation of the blade wheel. Accordingly, the oil in the space

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between the housing and the blade wheel flows against the desired direction of flow and impurities in the oil would be deposited in the region behind the blade wheel.

The present invention avoids this disadvantage. Utilizing the function of the connection channel between the working chamber and the intermediate space, the high flowing energy of oil in the hydrodynamic circuit would be applied to thereby avoid impurities in the intermediate space between the blade wheel and the housing.

In view of the differences between the present invention and the prior art as detailed above, it is submitted that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Bilton '957.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: January 2, 2004

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280

Name of Registered Representative

Signature

January 2, 2004

Date